

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03665 102208Z

16

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /104 W

----- 064974

R 102111Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9090

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJECT: CALL BY GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ-COLON OF PUERTO RICO

1. ON SEPT 8, GOV HERANDEZ-COLON CALLED ON AMB SHERER TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) AND THE COMPACT OF PERMANENT UNION. THE GOVERNOR EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME OF THIS YEAR'S C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY GOOD." IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY, WE OUTLINED A PROBABLE SCENARIO FOR UPDATING THE COMMITTEE'S

1974 REPORT. WE EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THE RAPPORTEUR IS CHARGED WITH UPDATING THE 1974 REPORT, HE DOES SO UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE C-24 BUREAU AND THAT WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY THE NORWEGIAN VICE-CHAIRMAN (VRAALSEN) THAT HE WILL MONITOR THE UPDATING VERY CAREFULLY. (VRAALSEN ALSO TOLD US HE BELIEVES HE CAN COUNT ON C-24 CHAIRMAN SALIM'S FULL COOPERATION. ABDULLAH(TRINIDAD & TABAGO) SHOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL.) WE ADDED THAT WE DOUBT THAT THE RAPPORTEUR WILL BEGIN HIS TASK IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND POSSIBLY NOT UNTIL THE GA IS OVER. WE ALSO DISCUSSED A SUGGESTION BY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AGRAIT THAT THE RAPPORTEUR BE INVITED TO PUERTO RICO, WHICH THE GOVERNOR ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO AMB SHERER'S COMMENT ABOUT THE ONE SIDEDNESS OF DEBATE IN THE COMMITTEE, GOV HERNANDEZ-COLON EXPRESSED HIS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03665 102208Z

CONTINUING READINESS TO SEND OFFICIAL OR NON-OFFICIAL REPRESENT-

ATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IF THE DEPARTMENT AND USUN AGREE. HE SAID HE HAD EXPRESSED PREVIOUSLY SIMILAR READINESS TO AMB SCALI BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE DEPARTMENT OPPOSED SUCH APPEARANCES.

3. MISOFF EXPLAINED THAT OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION WOULD IMPLY THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS A MANDATE TO CONSIDER PUERTO RICO AND THAT UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATION, WHICH WOULD GIVE THE DEBATE A MUCH MORE BALANCED AND RESPONSIBLE CHARACTER, WOULD ALSO LEGITIMIZE THE C-24'S CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. WE ADDED THAT WE DID NOT THINK ANY VOTES IN THE COMMITTEE ARE, OR WILL BE SWAYED, BY WHAT IS SAID IN THE DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO. WE COMMISERATED ABOUT OUR MUTUAL FRUSTRATION WITH THE ONE-SIDED DEBATE.

4. WE PROMISED, NEVERTHELESS, TO GIVE THIS MATTER RENEWED CONSIDERATION AND TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE GOVERNOR'S STRONG PREFERENCE FOR SOME REPRESENTATION BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

5. GOVERNOR HERANDEZ-COLON THEN TURNED TO THE COMPACT. HE SAID HE AS BEEN INFORMED BY THE WHITE HOUSE THAT A STATEMENT IS NOW PLANNED FOR OCTOBER. THE GOVERNOR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR SOME WHITE HOUSE ACTION WITHIN ONE YEAR OF RECEIPT OF A REPORT FROM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE. (NOT SO WE HAVE LEARNED AND INFORMED THE GOVERNOR) HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT AFTER WORKING SO LONG TO MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COMPACT KNOWN THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD ADOPT A NEGATIVE POSITION WHICH COULD BE HARMFUL IN PUERTO RICO AND AT THE UN.

6. THE GOVERNOR ASKED THAT HIS CONCERNS BE COMMUNICATED TO GOVERNOR SCRANTON, AND ASKED THAT GOVERNOR SCRANTON INTERCEDE WITH THE WHITE HOUSE IN FAVOR OF EITHER A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION OR NONE AT ALL. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS ONLY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE (WHOSE VIEWS ON THE COMPACT HE CHARACTERIZED AS FAVORABLE) AND USUN THAT COULD PUT THE COMPACT IN ITS CRUCIAL CONTEXT -- SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO -- AND THAT OTHER AGENCIES OF THE USG SEE IT IN TOO NARROW A BUREAUCRATIC FOCUS, RESULTING IN RECOMMENDATIONS AGAINST THE COMPACT. WE PROMISED TO BRING GOV HERNANDEZ-COLON'S CONCERNS TO THE ATTENTION OF GOV SCRANTON AND THE DEPARTMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 03665 102208Z

7. COMMENT. CONCERNING THE SUGGESTION THAT OFFICIAL OR UN-OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH BE DISPATCHED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE C-24 TO INTERRUPT THE OFFENSIVE LITANY WHICH THE USUAL PETITIONERS ENTONE, THE VISCERAL INSTINCT OF THE GOVERNOR IS CERTAINLY SHARED BY ALL IN USUN WHO HAVE DEALT WITH PUERTO RICO HERE. WHILE USUN HAS NOT YET COME TO ANY FINAL CONCLUSION ABOUT THE

DESIRABILITY OF THE GOVERNOR'S SUGGESTION, WE BELIEVE IT
SHOULD BE EVALUATED WITH GREAT CARE. WE SHALL PROBABLY
OFFER SOME IDEAS AFTER FURTHER CONSIDERATION HERE.
BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNGA RESOLUTIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN03665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760343-0751
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760971/aaaacimq.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL BY GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ-COLON OF PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PFOR, RQ, US, UN, COMMITTEE OF 24, (COLON-HERNANDEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006